

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Restriction and Election Requirement mailed on March 7, 2006.

Discussion of Amended Claims

Claims 35 is amended by deleting reference to a "single piece" of flat material. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 35 as amended is a generic claim.

Claim 98 is new and contains the subject matter deleted from claim 35.

Claims 36-38, and 41 are amended to depend from new claim 98. Claim 42 is amended to conform to the changes to claim 35.

Claim 66 is amended into dependent form and now depends from claim 35.

Claim 93 is amended into independent form and now depends from claim 66.

Claim 97 is amended to correct a typographical error.

Claims 1-98 are pending.

Discussion Of Restriction Election Requirement

The Examiner has required, pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 121, a restriction to one of the following inventions:

I. Claims 1-34 drawn to an energy system;

II. Claims 35-78 and 93-97 drawn to a process for the production of an energy absorbing device; and

III. Claims 79-92 drawn to a process for absorbing energy.

Applicant respectfully submits that new claim 98

belongs in the Group II claims, as it includes subject matter deleted from claim 35.

The Examiner has also required an election between the following two groups of Species:

Group I:

Species A: the use of a piece of flat material not formed from several pieces of flat material which are connected together; or

Species B: the use of a piece of flat material which was formed by connecting a plurality of pieces of material together.

Group II:

Species A: the formation of a single energy absorbing element on a single mandrel; or

Species B: the formation of multiple energy absorbing structures on a single mandrel.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 1-4, 7-11, and 16-34 are generic claims.

Applicant hereby elects the invention drawn to a process for the production of an energy absorbing device, as set forth in claims 35-78 and 93-98.

The Applicant also elects Species B of Group I and Species B of Group II, drawn to the use the use of a piece of flat material which was formed by connecting a plurality of pieces of material together in the formation of multiple energy absorbing elements on a single mandrel. Applicant respectfully submit that claims 35, and 42-78 and 93-97 read on the elected species.

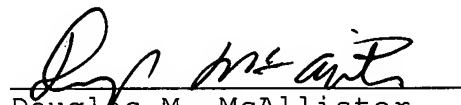
As a result of the foregoing elections, claims 1-34, 36-41, 79-92, and 98 are withdrawn.

This election is made without prejudice and with the understanding that upon the allowance of a generic claim, Applicant will be entitled to consideration of additional species which are dependent on or otherwise contain all the limitations of the generic claim. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 35 is a generic claim.

Conclusion

The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the election requirement and to pass this application on to an early issue. Should there be any remaining issues that need to be addressed in order to place this application into condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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